

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1155

S E C R E T USNATO 3809

EXDIS/SALT

FOR AMBASSADOR JOHNSON FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: SALT CONSULTATIONS

1. I KNOW YOU SHARE MY VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NATO CONSULTATION ON SALT. THESE CONSULTATIONS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM OUR ALLIES ABOUT THE ISSUES AS THE U.S. SEES THEM AND TO CONSTRUCT A BROAD BASIS FOR THE ALLIES TO FORM THEIR OWN POSITIVE JUDGMENTS OF SPECIFIC SALT AGREEMENTS ONCE SIGNED. U.S. DETERMINATION TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH ITS NATO ALLIES ON SALT BROUGHT GOOD DIVIDENDS IN SALT ONE. THE JUNE, 1972 AGREEMENTS WERE UNDERSTOOD AND WELCOMED BY ALL ALLIED GOVERNMENTS, WHO ACCEPTED AND USED THE SAME YARDSTICKS TO EVALUATE THE ABM TREATY AND INTERIM OFFENSIVE AGREEMENT THAT THE USG DID.

2. THE U.S. HAS CONTINUED THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR SALT TWO WITH YOUR TWO APPEARANCES BEFORE THE COUNCIL, WITH STATEMENTS AND LETTERS. I PARTICULARLY REMEMBER YOUR COMING TO BRUSSELS BETWEEN MEETINGS WITH THE SOVIETS AND DR. KISSINGER THE WEEK OF MAY 7 TO DESCRIBE TO THE COUNCIL THE U.S. SALT PROPOSALS YOU WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PUTTING FORWARD TO THE SOVIETS. I ALSO RECALL AND APPRECIATE YOUR EXTRA EFFORT TO KEEP ME UP-TO-THE-MINUTE  
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ON JUNE 20 AND 21 FOR MY BRIEFING OF THE COUNCIL ON THE SALT ASPECTS OF THE SUMMIT.

3. BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS SO FAR SET SUCH A MODEL STANDARD

FOR CONSULTATIONS REGARDING SALT, AND BECAUSE OF THE ALLIES' INCREASED SECURITY INTEREST IN SALT TWO, THEY HOPE FOR CONTINUED INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS DURING THE PRESENT PHASE OF SALT. THEY EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN REINSTITUTING PERIODIC EXPERTS' SESSIONS TO ACCOMPANY YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL.

4. STATEMENTS AND LETTERS FROM ME ARE A USEFUL DEVICE IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS, BUT THESE SUPPLEMENT RATHER THAN SUBSTITUTE FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSULT WITH YOU AS THE U.S. SALT NEGOTIATOR AND FOR THEIR SALT EXPERTS TO MEET WITH U.S. EXPERTS FOR IN-DEPTH AND FREE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS.

5. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO OFFER A CONSULTATION EARLY IN SEPTEMBER IN THE FORMAT OF A MEETING BY YOU WITH THE COUNCIL, FOLLOWED BY AN EXPERTS' SESSION. THIS WOULD BE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN THE RECENT CANADIAN LIST (STATE 155636 AND USNATO 3419). RUMSFELD

SECRET

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